

# SJUNews \*FLASH\*

A weekly email to share important information  
and to alert you to upcoming events.

**Article submission deadline: Thursdays at NOON**

**DECEMBER 29, 2023**

[www.sjuned.org](http://www.sjuned.org)

[SJU Facebook](#)

[SJU YouTube](#)

[SJUColumbia@gmail.com](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com)

(best way to contact the office)



## **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:30 AM** **LIVESTREAM FROM THE INTERFAITH CENTER**

***Use this same link for EVERY SJU worship service!***

### **[SJU Worship Service Livestream](#)**

*This worship service link is also posted on both our website and our Facebook page.*

**[SJU Website](#)**

**[SJU Facebook](#)**

Our service also streams live on our Youtube page, beginning at 10:30 am.

**[SJU YouTube](#)**

We invite all persons back into worship on Sunday mornings at our 10:30 a.m. service in Room 4 of the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center. We hope you have been able to receive all COVID vaccinations and boosters.

## **SUNDAYS AT SEVEN (PM!) FELLOWSHIP – 7:00 PM – VIA ZOOM**

Meeting ID: 835 8748 4349

Password: 940379

Join online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83587484349?pwd=MmhCampLL0tnMWhOc1hEWtBwQ29BQT09>

Or by phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

## **Stay Well and Keep Others Well This Holiday Season!**

We ask that you stay home and worship with us virtually via our **[SJU Worship Service Livestream](#)** if you or a member of your household:

- have any symptoms of flu, RSV, pneumonia, or COVID-19, such as fever, chills, headache, cough, gastric distress, loss of smell, and shortness of breath;
- have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 5 days; or
- have had close contact with a person who has tested positive for, or who has symptoms of, COVID-19 within the past 5 days.

For those who wish to worship in person, masking is at your discretion, and we recommend congregants seat at a comfortable distance from one another for worship. Everyone is invited to sing.

Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the door to the sanctuary as needed. Tithes and offerings will be collected upon exit of worship in a basket near the door.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE**

**\*\* In case of inclement weather, please check either of the following for announcements:**

**[SJU Website](#)**

**[SJU Facebook](#)**

### **SJU Pastor Transition Update**

from Debbie Parker, Chair of Council

“What is happening to secure a new pastor after Pastor Mary Ka leaves SJU at the end of January?” Council and SPRC are hearing this question from around the congregation – and understandably so! In response, here is where we are:

- Rev. Tanya Wade has been named SJU’s liaison with the Baltimore Presbytery Commission on Ministry (COM) for our transition to a called pastor to replace Pastor Mary Ka. Rev. Wade is the pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Baltimore City, and previously served as Christian Education Director at SJU.
- Rev. Wade is collaborating with Council and SPRC to provide information on, and assistance with, the Presbyterian pastor transition process.
- Council voted at its December 18 meeting to secure an interim pastor during the search for a called pastor, as the search for a called pastor may take as much as one year. Interim pastors are trained to help congregations transition from one pastor to another, as well as serve as pastor to the church until a pastor is called to serve on an ongoing basis.
- COM is currently working to identify interim pastor candidates for consideration by SJU.
- Rev. Lon Chesnutt, SJU Pastor Emeritus, will replace Pastor Mary Ka as the pastor investment trustee for SJU’s building fund investment account. Debbie Parker, Lisa Cooper Green, and Andrew Love will continue as the other three investment trustees.
- Pastor Mary Ka’s last day in the pulpit will be January 7. A reception will follow in the lobby.
- Pastor Mary Ka will moderate the SJU Annual Congregation Meeting on January 21. It will be her last official duty with SJU.
- After January 7, the following people will serve in the pulpit through the end of January:
  - January 14 – Guy Moody, Chair of SPRC and SJU representative to Baltimore Presbytery
  - January 21 – Jackie Taylor, General Presbyter
  - January 28 – Rev. Stephen Price-Gibson, PC(USA)

We will have more information to share throughout January as the process moves forward, so stay tuned!

## PRAYER MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CARE

### **This Week in Your Prayers (your prayers are felt and make a difference!):**

- Please keep **Roy Ferguson** in your prayers, as he faces some medical issues. Please pray for his care, comfort and recovery. He welcomes phone calls (410-730-0484) and emails (royaferguson@yahoo.com).
  - **Judy Douds** is back at home. Keep her and her husband, **Dave**, in your prayers. Both would appreciate cards: 719 Maiden Choice La, BR 231, Catonsville MD 21228.
  - Pray for **Andrea Barnes**, whose son, **Eric**, will be undergoing major surgery for a health matter. Please keep Eric Barnes in Michigan, in your prayers for diagnosis and recovery. Cards and calls are welcomed: 6682 Possum Ct, Columbia MD 21045; 301-596-2836.
  - Keep in your prayers **Charles Dyer**, who is unable to get to church easily these days, and is awaiting a transition to an assisted living facility nearby. Cards and phone calls will be appreciated: 9895 Palace Hall Dr, #313, Laurel MD 20723; 301-604-4750; [cadassoc@aol.com](mailto:cadassoc@aol.com)
  - Remember **Morris Range**, age 96, living at Riderwood retirement community.
  - **Nancy Gabie** asks for prayers for her brother, Terrence Gabie, is experiencing health issues and is seeking costly medical treatment. Your prayers for a way to be made are earnestly requested by Nancy on behalf of her whole family.
  - **Debra Snow's** mother, **Mary**, is resting comfortably in hospice care. Debbie would welcome prayers, cards and calls of support: 12100 Little Patuxent Pky #E, Columbia MD 21044; 510-708-1127; [debrasnow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debrasnow@sbcglobal.net)
  - **Pamela Love** requests prayers for her **brother Brad Gibson**, living with a serious chronic health condition, and for her **mother**, whose dementia is worsening. Pamela welcomes cards: 6229 Light Point Pl, Columbia MD 21045.
  - Our hearts and voices continue to join in prayer for the **people of the Ukraine** and all who are experiencing fear and violence as a result of a conflict with Russia.
  - For the **world at large**, please pray earnestly for the ones **suffering in Israel and Palestine** following unprecedented attacks on life. Pray for an end to the violence in Israel, the preservation of innocent lives caught in this war, and a just resolution that brings some peace to the land of our Biblical and spiritual heritage.
  - Pray for our **church worldwide, pray for SJU in its pastoral transition, and its leaders and members**, pray for one another, our neighbors, and for yourself and often. Pray for what burdens your heart and mind for the world, our nation and our neighborhood.
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Dear SJU faith family and friends,

**Thank you so very much** for your kindness, generosity and support of our ministries and gifts. It continues to be a joy to embrace the call from God to serve St. John United and our community. Your generous love offering to us is greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to the hopes that come with the anticipated changes for the new year and continuing this journey of faith and life, by grace, through faith in Christ and what God can do!

Many thanks for being a blessing to all of us, and deep joy to all,

*Patty Hammer, Ingrid Sampson, Yvonne Barner and Mary Ka Kanahan*

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## DIRECTED DONATIONS

At this time, the Finance/Investment team asks that you please do not designate or direct your contributions to SJU toward a specific ministry unless asked. When SJU is aware that specialized ministries need funding, that need will be publicized in advance, and solicited for a specific time and use. The elected leaders of the Church Council are in continual discernment to guide all of SJU's human, financial and spiritual resources in responsible and impactful ways, for the transformation of the world.

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### **League of Women Voters Legislative Breakfast: January 6, 2024**

The [League of Women Voters of Howard County](#) is partnering with Howard County Library System to organize their [annual precession Legislative Breakfast](#) with the members of the Howard County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly.

The public is invited to attend. Legislators will speak about their plans for the upcoming session, listen to constituent concerns, and answer questions from the audience.

Doors open at 10am. At this event, we will serve light refreshments and we will hear from the Howard County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly. This is an 'in-person' event and will be held in the Belmont/Hockley rooms of the ElkrIDGE Branch of the Howard County Library (6540 Washington Blvd, ElkrIDGE MD).

[Register for Legislative Breakfast](#)

### **Maryland Family Caregiver Survey**

The [Maryland Commission on Caregiving](#) has developed a 15-minute online anonymous survey that asks questions about the person being cared for, the caregiver's knowledge of available programs, and priorities for supports and services. Please take a moment to [complete the survey](#) between now and December 31; everyone who takes the survey will be entered into a raffle for a \$20 e-gift card.

For more information or assistance, contact the [Howard County Caregiver Support](#) program at 410-313-5955 (voice/relay).

[Take the Maryland Family Caregiver Survey](#)

### **Bystander Training**

We at Christ United Methodist Church are very pleased to host Howard County's Office on Human Rights and Equity as they present the [Bystander Intervention and Cultural Awareness Training](#) at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 pm. (There is no snow date.) Please join us to learn how to be a part of a peaceful humane solution. More logistical information to follow in January.

*~ Blessings, Karen Ohlrich for Christ United Methodist Church*

The poster features a large graphic of three interlocking orange and red rings. Text on the poster includes: 'Bystander Intervention & Cultural Awareness Training', 'SAVE THE DATE', 'Sunday, January 28, 2024 3-6 pm', 'Christ United Methodist Church in the Owen Brown Interfaith Center Columbia', 'Break the Chain', 'This training will help you learn how to intervene and promote the humanity of those who are being targeted or harmed because of their race, national origin, ethnicity, disability, religion, sex, gender, or sexual orientation in your presence.', 'Free Event Registration for free tickets will be available in January', 'Facilitated by Howard County Office on Human Rights and Equity', and 'Sponsored by Owen Brown Interfaith Center'.

## DENOMINATION NEWS

For Baltimore Presbytery news, go here: <https://baltimorepresbytery.org/>

For Baltimore/Washington Conference news, go here: <https://www.bwcumc.org/>

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### **ONGOING SJU NEWS / LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST**

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#### **Columbia Community Care** *(updated 11-12-23)*

Did you know that:

- The CCC pop-up pantries serve an average of 300 families during their two-hour operation at the WLIFC on Saturday mornings?
- Many of the recipients of these non-perishable items are individuals who are employed but are unable to purchase sufficient food to support their families. They turn to CCC and other pantries to support their families with adequate food?
- The contributions from the WLIFC congregations represent 40% to 60% of the materials distributed by Columbia Community Care?
- The average weekly contribution of 162 items (May - Oct 2023) has been falling since 2021 when we had an average weekly contribution of 672 items?

We hope you will consider increasing your contributions to the WLIFC totes. During the Thanksgiving season, totes and boxes will be available in the lobby and outside the WLIFC office during services on Thanksgiving Day.

Thanks for your generosity.

**For more information (updated on 11/12/23), go here: [FLASH & Announcements](#)**

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### **YOUR CONTINUED GIVING IS APPRECIATED!**

Please continue helping us meet our need so that all of our ministries and missions can continue and be prepared for the fullness of service in the coming months. Here's how you can help:

#### **Donate through GIVELIFY.**

With Givelify, you have two options:

1. Download the GIVELIFY app (iphone or android), search for us by name (Saint John United Church) or phone number (410-730-9137), and follow the steps, or
2. Donate online through this link: [Donate Today](#) and search for us as explained above.



**Donate by mail.** Yvonne checks the mail for contributions, and makes weekly deposits.

Make your check payable to **ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH**, and mail it (with or without including your contribution envelope) to:  
**St John United Church, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd, Columbia MD 21044**

**Donate through your bank or credit union.** Set up St. John United Church as you would any other bill through your bank's bill payment option.



**GOODBYE, 2023!**

**IT's 2024's TURN!**

**CALENDAR: SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 31 – JANUARY 7**

**All meetings are via Zoom unless otherwise noted;**

links to any open meetings are in this issue

All meetings are open to the members and affiliates of SJU unless otherwise noted. Members are encouraged to connect, be engaged and invested in the life and leadership of this Body of Christ, the church! Contact [SJUColumbia@gmail.com](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com) if you wish to receive meeting and contact information on anything below:

|  |                 |  |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Sun, 12/31   | 10:30 am        | WORSHIP SERVICE ( <i>in-person &amp; streaming</i> )<br>(The “ABCs of Christmas” Family Service) |
| <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>  |                 |  |
| <b>Mon, 1/1</b>  |                 | <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>   |
| Wed, 1/3   |                 | CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE  |
| Thu, 1/4   | 6:00 pm         | A/V TECH TEAM REHEARSAL ( <i>Room 4</i> )  |
| <b><u>Pastor Mary Ka's last Sunday preaching and celebration of ministry</u></b> |                 |  |
| <b>Sun, 1/7</b>  | <b>10:30 am</b> | <b>WORSHIP SERVICE (<i>in-person &amp; streaming</i>)</b>  |
|  | <b>11:30 am</b> | <b>CELEBRATION (<i>Café/foyer, Room 10</i>)</b>  |

**Prayer Group Ministry:** Anyone in the church may submit a prayer concern to a group prayer chain. Contact Judy Miller ([quiltjudy@gmail.com](mailto:quiltjudy@gmail.com)), or Evelyn Chesnutt ([lchesnutt@icloud.com](mailto:lchesnutt@icloud.com)). If you would like to be part of the Prayer Group Ministry, also contact Judy or Evelyn and let them know so they can add you to the distribution.

**ADMIN OFFICE AND PASTORAL OFFICE HOURS:** Yvonne is in the office for a few hours once a week, normally on Thursdays, and Pastor Mary Ka is in as needed each week. Because it might be several days before they can retrieve phone messages, please send them an email with any questions you have, for help you may need, or to make an in-office appointment.

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